

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending. The Examiner requires restriction to and/or election of one of the following:

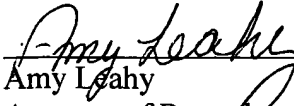
- Group I: comprising of claims 1-3 and 6-10, drawn to a composition comprising a non-peptide analgesic (e.g. opioids, opiates, opiate derivatives);
- Group II: comprising of claims 1-5 and 9-10, drawn to a composition comprising a peptide analgesic (e.g. enkephalins, endorphins and synthetic opioids peptides);
- Group III: comprising of claims 11-13 and 16-35, drawn to an antinociceptive treatment comprising the administration of a composition comprising a non-peptide analgesic; and
- Group IV: comprising of claims 11-35, drawn to an antinociceptive treatment comprising the administration of a composition comprising a peptide analgesic.

Applicants elect Group III, with traverse. Rejoinder of Group I with Group III is respectfully requested. Searching the additional inventions of Group I must constitute an undue burden on the examiner for restriction to be permissible. MPEP § 803 The MPEP directs the Examiner to search and examine an entire application “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, ... even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” *Id.* It is respectfully submitted that it would not place an unnecessary burden on the Examiner to search and examine Groups I and III together, as a search for the Group III methods would inevitably encompass the Group I compositions.

In view of the foregoing, the Group I and III claims of the present application represent a web of knowledge and continuity of effort that merits examination in a single application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested, and an early action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amy Leahy
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 47,739
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
Intellectual Property Practice Group
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Telephone: (203) 353-6839